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PRESS RELEASE

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Terrell L. Harris, the United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, announced today that the federal grand jury returned an indictment charging Donald Ray Keel with one count of violating the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act ("FIFRA") and nine counts of violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

FIFRA is a federal law that regulates the use of pesticides. The violation of FIFRA charged in the indictment is punishable by up to one year imprisonment and a fine of up to \$100,000.00.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act regulates the taking of migratory birds such as eagles, hawks, owls and vultures. Each violation of the Act charged in the indictment is punishable by up to six months imprisonment and a fine of up to \$15,000.00.

Count 1 of the indictment charges that Keel, who was not a certified applicator of restricted pesticides as required by FIFRA, applied Aldicarb, a restricted use pesticide, to two deer carcasses and a goat carcass and placed the carcasses in a field where various animals and birds consumed them. Counts 2 through 10 of the indictment charge Keel with killing seven Red-Tailed Hawks and two Black Vultures.

The case was investigated by the West Tennessee Environmental Task Force. The task force was formed in order to improve the enforcement of state and federal environmental laws in Western Tennessee. Members of the task force include representatives from a number of federal, state and local agencies. Participating prosecutors' offices include the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Tennessee, the Tennessee Attorney General's Office and the District Attorney General for the 30th Judicial District. Other participating federal agencies include the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Environmental Protection Agency's Criminal Investigation Division, the Memphis, Tennessee, office of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General, and the United States Coast Guard. State agencies participating in the task force include the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Locally, the Memphis Police Department and the Memphis Fire Department are participating in the task force.

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